

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 218913
ORIGIN ARA-14

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DRAFTED BY ARA/ECP:JBUSHNELL:SAB
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P 131906Z SEP 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, XL, CA

SUBJECT: COOPERATION FOR CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT

1. THE PRESIDENT HAS DECIDED THAT U.S. WILL APPROACH PROBLEMS OF THE CARIBBEAN IN A COMPREHENSIVE WAY, THAT WE WILL SEEK IMPROVED COOPERATION WITH OTHER DONORS, AND THAT U.S. ASSISTANCE WILL PROBABLY BE EXPANDED IN THE COURSE OF SUCH A COOPERATIVE EFFORT. UNDERLYING OUR CONCERN ARE THE POTENTIAL PROBLEMS THAT COULD ARISE AS THE MANY SMALL NATIONS OF THE CARIBBEAN FACE FRUSTRATION IN THEIR ASPIRATIONS FOR HIGHER LIVING STANDARDS. AN INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO COORDINATE USG EFFORTS AND PREPARE OPTIONS FOR INCREASED U.S. EFFORTS.

2. CANADA HAS PROVIDED MUCH ASSISTANCE, ESPECIALLY TO THE
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PAGE 02 STATE 218913

ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN, AND HAS A SPECIAL INTEREST IN SOME PARTS OF THE AREA. WE KNOW CANADA SHARES OUR CONCERN WITH THE AREA. WE BELIEVE OUR COOPERATION IN THIS EXERCISE SHOULD BE PARTICULARLY CLOSE WITH CANADA AND THAT WE SHOULD INITIATE CONSULTATIONS AT AN EARLY AND FORMATIVE STAGE.

3. WE ARE CONSIDERING ENCOURAGING THE IBRD IN COOPERATION

WITH THE IDB AND CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK TO ARRANGE A MEETING OF DONOR AND REGIONAL COUNTRIES LATER THIS FALL. WE ARE PLANNING TO EXPLORE INFORMALLY POSSIBLE CONTINUING CONSULTATION MECHANISMS WHICH MIGHT BE AGREED AT SUCH A MEETING.

4. OUR PRELIMINARY CONSULTATIONS WITH SOME COUNTRIES IN THE AREA ARE ALREADY RESULTING IN INITIATIVES. TRINIDAD HAS APPROACHED IMF, U.S. AND PERHAPS OTHERS SUGGESTING AN IMF ADMINISTERED ASSISTANCE ARRANGEMENT. VENEZUELA FAVORS AN IDB LED GROUP AND REPORTEDLY IS NOW WRITING OTHER POTENTIAL DONORS, INCLUDING THE U.S. AND CANADA PROPOSING A DONOR-ONLY INFORMAL DISCUSSION IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE IMF/IBRD MEETING THE LAST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER IN WASHINGTON. THUS WE FEEL CONSULTATIONS WITH GOC MOST USEFUL BEFORE IMF/IBRD MEETING.

5. THE TASK FORCE IS ALSO ANALYZING THE DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED PROBLEMS OF THE AREA AS A BASIS FOR OUR OWN ASSISTANCE OPTIONS AND FOR OUR PARTICIPATION IN SUCH A MEETING. THE TASK FORCE IS ALSO CONSIDERING IDEAS THAT MIGHT BE JOINTLY AGREED TO PROMOTE FURTHER INTEGRATION, AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER PRODUCTIVE INITIATIVES IN THE REGION.

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PAGE 03 STATE 218913

6. ALTHOUGH THIS WORK IS STILL AT AN INITIAL AND PRE-LIMINARY STAGE, WE ARE PREPARED ON AN INFORMAL BASIS TO EXPOSE OUR THINKING AND WE WOULD HOPE FOR THE MAXIMUM INPUT OF CANADIAN IDEAS. WE WOULD HOPE THE CANADIANS MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN JOINT OR RELATED DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER DONORS AND WITH RECIPIENTS.

7. WE HAVE EXPLAINED OUR INTEREST TO THE CANADIAN EMBASSY (KEN MERCLINGER) BUT HAVE TOLD EMBASSY THAT WE ARE ASKING EMBASSY OTTAWA TO MAKE ACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS CONTACTING APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS SOONEST. CANADIAN EMBASSY INDICATED IT WOULD SEND MESSAGE TO EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CIDA AND TREASURY MONDAY NIGHT INDICATING DESIRABILITY EARLY CONSULTATIONS.

8. JOHN BUSHNELL, (FSO, FORMERLY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TREASURY) INTERIM HEAD OF INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE IS PREPARED TRAVEL TO OTTAWA AT APPROPRIATE EARLY STAGE FOR SUCH DISCUSSION WITH CANADIAN OFFICIALS. SUCH DISCUSSION SHOULD INCLUDE WORKING LEVEL OFFICIALS WITH MOST KNOWLEDGE AND IDEAS ABOUT CARIBBEAN SITUATION AND PROBLEMS AND SELECTED SENIOR OFFICIALS WITH WHOM

DISCUSSION GENERAL THRUST AND DESIRE COOPERATIVE
CANADIAN ROLE APPROPRIATE. BUSHNELL PREPARED VISIT

OTTAWA ANYTIME SEPTEMBER BUT EARLIER BETTER AS SOME
DISCUSSIONS OTHER COUNTRIES WILL HAVE TO BE SCHEDULED
BEFORE END OF MONTH. WOULD PREFER MONDAY SEPTEMBER 19TH
PERMITTING TRAVEL SUNDAY BUT CAN COME ANYDAY WEEK OF
19TH. VANCE

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